

DanSe Dialogues:

The maiden edition of a dialogue on contemporary dance between India and France was hosted in Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore from 2-12 Nov 2011. Inspired by artistic trends from the two countries and aptly titled “DanSe Dialogues” the objective of these encounters was to open new vistas for this art form to flourish. DANse Dialogues goes on to ride the wave of interest that was created through the Festival of France in India, Bonjour India 2009-10, by interspersing performances with encounters with choreographers, master classes and video screenings of contemporary French dance forms.

The first experimentation with contemporizing Indian dance forms goes back to the time of Tagore. Ever since, the trends in contemporary dance here mirrored the life experiences of choreographers, artists, professionals who have travelled overseas to learn, share and evolve through their works. These new physical expressions have enthralled audiences the world over. Through DanSe dialogues these indelible impressions were brought to the fore and shared by over 7500 spectators in three different cities. In Bangalore and Chennai the Alliances Françaises with the Prakriti and Kalashetra Foundations and the Attakalari Centre, backed by French companies such as Michelin, Renault, Schneider Electric, Saint-Gobain, BNP Paribas and Fortune Hotel worked in tandem to bring alive these dialogues.

In Delhi Brahim Bouchelegham wowed the audiences with popular hip hop while Dominique Boivin intertwined dance techniques involving man and machine leaving spectators agape,



Dominique Boivin holds the audience rapt

(photo:Soumita Bhattacharya)



Navtej Johar and Hiroshi Miyamoto :Mango Cherry Mix

(photo:Soumita Bhattacharya)

and Jerome Bel’s avant garde style delighted. Indian contemporary performers Navtej Johar and Hiroshi Miyamoto made audiences pause and explore their cultural selves through the Mango Cherry mix, while Aditi Mangaldas’ unique blend of contemporary Kathak explored the almost magical intangibility of timelessness.

Mandeep Raikhy through his rendition of a piece titled Inhabited Geometry and Anusha Lall through Tilt explored novel and challenging ways of applying classical Bharatnatyam techniques to contemporary dance.



Aditi Mangaldas : Timeless

( Photos: Soumita Bhattacharya)



H.E François Richier, Ambassador of France to India ,

interacting with the audience during the show TILT

**Encounters with choreographers** helped professionals, artists and the public to understand the kernel of thought that went with the creation of these performances. Thus Brigette Chataigner's work Ganga that draws from Mohiniyattam and adapts it to divulge the feminine intensity gave a glimpse of the journey of the life of this gifted artist and the sacred river. Dominique Boivin commented on select films in an interaction with the public so as to enable the audience to understand his source of inspiration and see dance with a more open gaze encompassing different facets such as the abstract, modern, dynamic, funny and even political.



Brigette Chataigner (photo: Soumita Bhattacharya)



Michele Bargues interacting with the audience (Photo: Soumita Bhattacharya)

A **panorama of 15 French films** showcasing the wealth of diversity of contemporary dance trends in France was presented by Michele Bargues from the Centre Pampidou featuring choreographers such as Maguy Marin, Rachid Ouramdane, Philippe Découflé, Josef Nadj and Mourad Merzouki. Tell me, and I

will forget. Show me, and I may remember, Involve me, and I will understand...in keeping with this philosophy through DanSe Dialogues participating choreographers and dancers offered **master classes**. Anusha Lall investigated Bharatnatyam and deconstructed its techniques to a point from where experimentation and play can evolve. Navtej Johar showed how Yoga for dancers can tap into different realms of energy of the human body for optimal grace, health and efficiency. Brahim Bouchelegham offered high energy hip hop dance classes while, Philippe Priasso concentrated only on advanced level dancers allowing them to hone their own individual distinctive style as a means of expression.



Brahim Bouchelegham conducting the Hip Hop masterclass (Photo: Soumita Bhattacharya)

The Institut Français en Inde, the French Embassy in India and the Alliances Françaises as organisers hope to have lent a push to these delightful artistic expressions through DanSe Dialogues. Several professionals presented their compelling craft to mesmerized audiences comprising mostly the youth and yet peppered with people of all ages.